

AGENCY	Stoneham Tri-Community Bike/Greenway Committee
PLACE of meeting	Stoneham Town Hall
DATE of meeting	January 11, 2016
TIME of meeting	7:00 PM

## Meeting Minutes

Stoneham Tri-Community Bike/Greenway Committee

January 11, 2016 at 7:00 P M

Second Floor Conference Room, Stoneham Town Hall

*Attendance: Committee: Anthony Wilson (chair), Cameron Bain, Dorothy Bergold, Mary Furrier, Cindy Hemenway, Joan Lemire, Bill Murphy, Julie Shulman, Mark Warren, Dolly Wilson*  
*Guests: Maura Campbell, Caroline Colarusso, Butch Conary, Steve McDonough, Aldo Urbino*

7:00 PM	<i>Call to order</i>
	<i>Review Meeting minutes</i> - Minutes review was postponed due to the Town Hall copier being broken and they could not be distributed.
	<p><i>Dog Parks – Maura Campbell (Open Space Committee) &amp; Caroline Colarusso (BOS)</i></p> <p>Maura Campbell and other members of the Open Space Committee spoke on plans to try to create a dog park that would be fenced and have some parking available. There are approximately 1800 registered dogs, which means the actual number of dogs is higher.</p> <p>Melrose currently has a similar type park near the pond, with a water fountain and other activities. The current preferred location is behind the Senior Center near the soccer fields. Other suggested areas were near Pomeworth Field or along the Greenway, but those did not seem practical, particularly the Greenway due to how narrow it would need to be and a lack of parking.</p> <p>The city of Melrose spent approximately 10k, for which Stoneham would need to fundraise. The main cost would be the fencing, as the chips used (instead of grass) could be obtained from the DPW when they chip items in the Stevens Street yard.</p> <p>She emphasized it would be fenced, have a wood chip surface, and would not affect any of the playing fields, since playing space is already in short supply. The DPW would be needed to empty trash barrels of waste.</p>
	<p><i>Connection of the Tri-Community with the Wakefield-Lynnfield Project</i></p> <p>Dolly brought up the issue of trying to connect the Tri-Community to the Wakefield/Lynnfield Rail trail project. Given that the Eversource Woburn to Wakefield line project seems unavoidable and the noticed route is down Elm to Albion and Broadway to the end of the rail trail there, it is a good opportunity to connect two projects. After discussion, the Committee voted that if the Eversource project goes through Elm Street, which seems likely, that:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">the Town should advocate that as part of the Eversource project mitigation, encourage Eversource to undertake a Complete Streets revamp from Main Street at Elm Street in Stoneham to Broadway in Wakefield, with a preference for a dedicated bike lane and adequate sidewalk so that the two rail trail projects can be connected.</p> <p>The letter sent to the Town Administrator and Chairman of the Board of Selectman (01/14/16) is attached.</p> <p>Passed unanimously.</p>
	<p><i>Quick update on town's effort to update the Open Space Plan</i></p> <p>Improving Open Space planning is a goal of Stoneham's Community Compact. Erin Wortman, Town Planner has applied for a DLTA (technical assistance) grant from the MAPC to fund a consultant to write the plan for the Town. It would then be good for 7 years and allow the Town (and the Greenway) to apply for grants that require the Open Space Plan.</p>

*Project Status Update*

Project does need to go to bid by September of 2016. The Town of Stoneham has finished all its obligations. Dolly spoke to Beth Rudolph (Winchester Town Engineer) on January 7<sup>th</sup>. As of her last contact with MassDOT that week, the DEP had still not come back with a response to the appeal of the Winchester Conservation Commission Order of Conditions.

Finished

- Project-wide ENF/MEPA process
- Stoneham Conservation Commission Order of Conditions Registered
- Land Transfer from MBTA to Stoneham of land between Maple Street and Town Line
- Town of Stoneham Easement negotiations/payments and registration. Easements are good for five years from August 2015.

Currently outstanding for Project:

- Order of Conditions for Winchester (awaiting appeal to Mass DEP/EOEA)
- Winchester Easements (contingent upon final order of conditions and any changes necessary to path in Winchester because of the appeal)
- Final Plans
- Transfer of land from DCR to Winchester
- Bid

*Annual Conflict of Interest and Open Meeting Law Notification paperwork*

Members were reminded to turn in their paperwork to Maria Sagarino at the Town Clerk's office if they had not already done so or brought it with them.

*Old/New Business*

*Next meeting Date:* March 21

8:24 pm

*Adjourn.*

Stoneham Bikeway/Greenway Committee  
January 14, 2016

Thomas Boussy, Chair, Board of Selectman  
David Ragucci, Town Administrator  
Town of Stoneham  
35 Central Street  
Stoneham, MA 02180

Dear Tom and Dave,

At the January 11 meeting of the Bikeway/Greenway Committee, we discussed the possibility of connecting the Tri-Community Greenway to the Wakefield/Lynnfield Rails to Trails Project, which is nearing its 25% design stage.

As there is no off-road parkland that fully connects the two projects, the best way to accomplish this seems to be for Stoneham and Wakefield to request that an on-road connection be required as part of the Woburn to Wakefield Transmission line project. The current path of the transmission line runs from the Tri-Community Greenway at Elm Street to Albion Street and Broadway in Wakefield, where it connects the start of the Wakefield trail. It is our understanding that Wakefield is talking to Eversource about building parts of their trail. Connecting the two would be as simple as correct striping and signage for a dedicated bike lane when the roads are repaired.

The connection between Wakefield and Stoneham is a vital missing piece in the increasing network of greenbelt trails surrounding Boston, which the MAPC has been pursuing. With the connection, bikers and walkers could connect from Peabody to Medford on a safe, finished trail. The Stoneham Bikeway/Greenway Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the Town of Stoneham, as part of Eversource project mitigation, request that Eversource/National Grid undertake a Complete Streets treatment of Elm Street in Stoneham, and Albion Street and Broadway in Wakefield to the end of the Wakefield/Lynnfield Rail Trail and construct adequate sidewalk and a bike lane, with preference for a dedicated bike lane over a shared road one, to connect the two rail projects.

Sincerely,

Anthony Wilson  
Chairman, Stoneham Bikeway/Greenway Committee